



State of Utah
Department of Commerce

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

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September 30, 2019

Honorable Curtis S. Bramble, *Chair*
Honorable James A. Dunnigan, *Chair*
Business and Labor Interim Committee
320 State Capitol
P.O. Box 145115
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS FOR STATE
PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, H. B. 187 amended the duties of the Plumbers Licensing Board and the Electricians Licensing Board to include providing a preliminary report on or before October 1, 2019, and a final written report on or before June 1, 2020, to the Business and Labor Interim Committee and the Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee that provides recommendations for consistent educational and training standards for plumber and electrician apprentice programs in the state.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

In compliance with H.B. 187 and pursuant to Utah Code Ann. 58-55-201(3), the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (“DOPL”) in collaboration with the Plumbers Licensing Board provides this preliminary report.

In April 2019, the Plumbers Licensing Board established an ad-hoc committee to assist in the process of reviewing and evaluating the efficacy and aptness of each plumber apprenticeship program throughout the state. It was determined that the programs lacked uniform educational and training standards and actually encumbered the apprentice when transferring to another program.

As a result, the Plumbers Licensing Board has recommended that all providers of plumber apprenticeship programs implement uniform curriculum and training standards for each semester, beginning with 1A and continuing through 4B. For the student transferring to another

program, this will create parity with the programs and allow for much easier educational portability without jeopardizing the student's previously earned credit or time.

Additionally, the Plumbers Licensing Board has recommended the creation of "state-wide standardized competency exams". Administered by the Division's approved testing provider, an applicant may sit for these exams beginning with the 1A exam and continuing sequentially through the 4A exam. These exams will serve to determine the appropriate placement of an apprentice in the corresponding approved apprenticeship program. Furthermore, an apprentice may potentially "test out" of each required semester, drastically reducing or eliminating the educational time requirement, and thereby creating opportunities for expedited licensure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M B Steinagel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark B. Steinagel
Director
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

cc: Francine Giani, Executive Director, Utah Department of Commerce
Adam Sweet, Policy Analyst, Business and Labor Interim Committee